

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2012
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2012
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2397

Introduced by Assembly Member Allen

February 24, 2012

An act to add and repeal Section 4140 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2397, as amended, Allen. Mental health: state hospitals: ~~ancillary clinical~~ staff-to-patient ratios.

Existing law provides for state hospitals for the care, treatment, and education of mentally disordered persons. These hospitals are under the jurisdiction of the State Department of ~~Mental Health~~ *State Hospitals*, which is authorized by existing law to adopt regulations regarding the conduct and management of these facilities.

This bill would require the department to reimburse an independent entity to conduct a review and analysis of staffing ratios to determine the appropriate levels for effective patient treatment, and would require a report with findings to be submitted to the Legislature by August 1, 2013.

This bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2015.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4140 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 4140. (a) (1) To the extent permitted by the California
4 Constitution and Section 19130 of the Government Code, the State
5 Department of ~~Mental Health~~ *State Hospitals* shall reimburse an
6 independent entity for the purposes of conducting a review and
7 analysis of staffing ratios to determine the appropriate levels for
8 effective patient treatment. The State Department of ~~Mental Health~~
9 *State Hospitals* shall provide information to this entity as necessary
10 for it to complete its analysis and provide recommendations. It is
11 the intent of the Legislature that the State Department of ~~Mental~~
12 ~~Health~~ *State Hospitals* request the independent entity to complete
13 this analysis by ~~March~~ *June* 1, 2013. A report shall be submitted
14 to the Legislature by August 1, 2013, regarding the independent
15 entity's findings to ensure state hospitals are making progress and
16 to enable the Legislature to consider further action that may be
17 necessary during the subsequent legislative year.

18 (2) A report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be
19 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
20 Code.

21 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015,
22 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
23 is enacted before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.

O